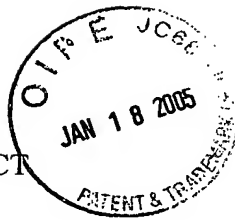


DOCKET NO: 217415US0PCT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
GUY SERRE, ET AL. : EXAMINER: HADDAD, MAHER M.  
SERIAL NO: 10/019,439 :  
FILED: MAY 8, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1644  
FOR: FIBRIN CITRULLINE :  
DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE FOR  
DIAGNOSING OR TREATING  
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Official Action mailed April 21, 2004 and concurrent with the Request for Continued Examination filed hereto, Applicants request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.